

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the first material and the second material comprise a single layer composite material.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The cannula as set forth in claim 3, wherein said composite material contains a solid state material and an organic polymer.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A cannula ~~that exhibits a selected flow cross section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula, said cannula configured to have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body, be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location and which can be moved in any direction when inserted, said cannula formed from at least one material which increases in pliability during use, wherein, prior to application, said cannula comprises~~ comprises:

a first material of a first thermally susceptible ~~hardness and~~ hardness;

a second material having a second ~~hardness, hardness; and~~

a selected flow cross-section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula,

wherein,

said cannula is configured to:

have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body;

be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location; and

be moved in any direction when inserted;

~~wherein,~~ the thermally susceptible hardness of said first material decreases during use;
use; and

~~wherein,~~ the first material is or comprises a polymer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the second hardness is lower, prior to use, than the hardness of the first material.

11. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first material at least partially surrounds the second material.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 10, wherein the hardness of the second material does not change during use.

14. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the material having the greater hardness at least partially surrounds the material having the lower hardness.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein its increase in pliability is completed within one hour, following the beginning of the use.

20. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the material having the greater hardness is a second cannula which is removed during use.

21. (Original) The cannula as set forth in claim 20, wherein the materials of differing hardness are separated by a layer, at least in sections.

22-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A cannula ~~that exhibits a selected flow cross section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula, said cannula configured to have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body, be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location and which can be moved in any direction when inserted, said cannula~~ formed from at least one material that increases in pliability during use, wherein the cannula ~~comprises~~ comprises:

a water-absorbing material based on a polyamide of a first variable hardness that decreases in hardness upon water ~~absorption~~, absorption;

~~and a material having a second hardness.~~ hardness; and

a selected flow cross-section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula,

wherein said cannula is configured to:

have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body;

be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location; and

be moved in any direction when inserted.

34-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 33, wherein said water-absorbing material based on a polyamide of a first variable hardness comprises an outer material of said cannula, and said material having a second hardness comprises an inner material of said cannula.

38-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein, the initial hardness of said first material equals that of a steel needle.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 33, wherein, the initial hardness of said water-absorbing material equals that of a steel needle.

57. (New) A cannula for insertion into a subject, the cannula formed from at least one material that increases in pliability after insertion, wherein the cannula comprises:

- an outer layer of water-absorbing material based on a polyamide of a first variable hardness that decreases in hardness after insertion and upon water absorption, yet remains intact;
- an inner layer of material having a second hardness; and
- a selected flow cross-section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula, wherein

said cannula is configured to:

- have a pre-insertion pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body;
- be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location; and
- be moved in any direction when inserted.

58. (New) The cannula as set forth in claim 57, wherein the second hardness is lower, prior to insertion, than the first variable hardness.

59. (New) The cannula as set forth in claim 58, wherein the second hardness does not change during use.

60. (New) The cannula as set forth in claim 57, wherein, the first variable hardness has a pre-insertion hardness equal to that of a steel needle.